

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, between lines 3 and 4 after the Title "Description" please insert the following paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. application serial no. 10/189,260, filed on July 3, 2002, which is based on French priority document 10 08932, filed July 5, 2001, the entire contents of each of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please delete the original Abstract on page 24, lines 1-21 in its entirety, and insert therefor:

ABSTRACT

A method for structuring and managing the configuration of an industrial product. The method describes a set of technical objects, each technical object either representing a product function or describing an implementation method for such a product function, to achieve a configuration of the product. A database is updated to specify the definition of each technical object and its inter-relations with other objects in the configuration, by an expression of rules and constraints. The database is used interactively and dynamically through a selection of options by a customer.